

JANUARY
FEBRUARY
MARCH
2026

Our Margate

THE OFFICIAL CITY OF MARGATE MAGAZINE



In This Issue:

City Center Development

Local Fallen Soldier Remembered

2026 Senior Games

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YOUR MARGATE GOVERNMENT

CITY COMMISSION

Antonio V. Arserio, FRA-RP | Mayor
Anthony N. Caggiano | Vice Mayor
Tommy Ruzzano | Commissioner
Arlene R. Schwartz | Commissioner
Joanne Simone | Commissioner

Cale Curtis | City Manager
Larry Vignola | Assistant City Manager
Jennifer Johnson | City Clerk
Weiss Serota Heffman Cole + Bierman
City Attorney

Featured Articles



A new City Center will soon rise along State Road 7.

Read more on page 6.



What do our kids think of youth sports? Hear it in their own words!

Find that and more on page 13.



A local soldier who died in Iraq will be forever remembered.

Read his story on page 15.



What does 41 years of service look like? Ask Denise Steele, a Margate institution at our Senior Center.

Find her story on page 16.



ON THE COVER:

2025 Margate Photo Contest winner opens a *Window to the Sky*. Read about the winning shot on page 8.

PUBLICATION TEAM:

Lisa J. Huriash
Jonathan R. Gil

Please send us your feedback about this magazine at pio@margatefl.com.

FROM THE MAYOR

Happy New Year, Margate!

Since 1979, our city has attracted seniors from throughout northwest Broward to compete in the annual Senior Games. It is an opportunity for people aged 60 and older to compete in both indoor and outdoor sports, including golf, shuffleboard, Wii bowling, and so much more.

The event allows our seniors to stay active while enjoying serious — but friendly — challenges and compete for medals. It is a chance to bond, not just over the love of sports, but also being part of a village.

The Senior Games is just one of the many events we are committed to hosting throughout the year. For us, it's a quality-of-life issue, ensuring that Margate is a safe and welcoming home for our children, seniors, and everyone in between.

To continue offering programs like the Senior Games that you want and need, I'd like to point out page 8 of this edition of Our Margate, where we break down how your property taxes are allocated.

It's how we keep the streets clean, the flowers blooming, City Hall open, the Calypso Cove water park staffed, and fire and police with the latest technology, equipment and training to be there when you need them.

The Broward School District collects 32%; water and hospital districts and the Children's Services Council collect a combined 9%; and Broward County (which funds regional services including libraries, the Broward Addiction Recovery Center, the Medical Examiner's Office, affordable housing, homeless services, regional parks, the Property Appraiser's Office, the Inspector General, Clerk of Courts, Broward Sheriff's Office, Animal Care and Adoption, water and wastewater, mosquito control, and Visit Lauderdale, which handles tourism), collects 26%.

Our city portion is 33% of the property tax bill and funds improvements and maintenance to city parks, police personnel and equipment, firefighters and the tools to do their job, street repair and maintenance, Parks and



Recreation special events and festivals, the Calypso Cove water park, code enforcement, and so much more. We provide free paint at several giveaways, and we also keep the medians blooming — all in an effort to keep Margate looking good.

We are committed to spending your tax dollars wisely and judiciously, and to continuing to provide you with the services you need and want.

Best wishes for a tremendous 2026.

Mayor Antonio V. Arserio, FRA-RP

aarserio@margatefl.com

FROM THE VICE MAYOR



I recently attended a conference by the Florida Redevelopment Association, and it was inspiring.

It focused on redevelopment options for cities — all while remaining smart, responsible, and committed to helping the city grow. And most importantly, simultaneously preserving the city's heart and character.

That's why our future City Center is so crucial.

The City Center will be on about 50 acres on both sides of State Road 7 at Margate Boulevard.

We want to do it right, we want to do it well, and we want it to be something we're all proud of.

Please see page 6 of the magazine for a recap of our public discussion about the project, and stay tuned for future meetings as we work together to make our city even greater.

Vice Mayor Anthony N. Caggiano

acaggiano@margatefl.com

DEAR NEIGHBORS:



Congratulations to Janette Ortiz Vega, whose winning photo is featured on our cover. All the entries show just how proud our residents are to call Margate home.

The spring season for youth sports is underway, and the next sign-up for baseball, basketball, soccer, and softball is in May for the fall season. I proposed a treat for our athletes who sign up, which was approved at City Hall: a free pass to Calypso Cove. Have a great time, guys!

I'm so proud of the kids, parents, and coaches who put their heart into each season. I wish each team good luck. Hear what the kids have to say about Margate sports on page 13.

From the Ruzzano family to yours, happy New Year! God bless! And Happy Valentine's Day!

Commissioner
Tommy Ruzzano
truzzano@margatefl.com



Happy New Year! There's no better New Year's resolution than to invest in our city by shopping locally. Every purchase supports our neighbors.

In 2025, we had the honor of welcoming many new businesses to Margate including: Kiddie Care preschool, Smoothie King, Shekinah One Driving School, East Coffee, D1 Training, Los Reyes Del Sabor, Bath & Body Works, Kimaya McPherson Bridal Couture, Light of Life Chiropractic, hair stylist PHD International, and C&H Auto Accessories.

We celebrated the remodeled reopening of Publix and Walmart, the expansion of ATI Materials, the renovation of Floribbean Seafood, and the merger at Clear Smiles Dental.

Here's to another year of progress and pride in Margate.

Commissioner
Arlene R. Schwartz
aschwartz@margatefl.com



Happy New Year, Margate!

Our city is defined not by its borders, but by us, our residents.

That's why we offer the services you need, from roads to water to police and fire, as well as the programs you enjoy, including parks and recreation. One service is Margate Inner-City Transit, a public transportation system and a great way to get around town.

The free bus service operates Monday through Saturday, with multiple routes, and connects to the shuttle service in Coral Springs and Coconut Creek. Stops include City Hall, the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center, HCA Florida Northwest Hospital, and various shopping plazas, such as Publix and Walmart.

Call 754-206-2639 or 786-459-0096 for route assistance.

Commissioner
Joanne Simone
jsimone@margatefl.com

MARGATE IN 2025

Just as quickly as it came, 2025 is behind us and in our rear-view mirrors! We want to thank all of you for joining us in making it a memorable year, from our family-favorite city events, to welcoming new business to the city.

Take a look at some of the special moments that defined a year in #OurMargate, where together, we make it great!



Shaping the Heart of Margate: City Center Project Kicks Off with Community Input

A new City Center is in the works for Margate, bringing a transformative project envisioned for up to 50 acres in the area of State Road 7 and Margate Boulevard.

The vision includes a possible boardwalk, walking trails and bike paths, playground, water feature, community gathering space, and art sculpture. It will be pedestrian-friendly, located at what will become a "Main and Main," as a vibrant retail, food and beverage destination. City Center will be built in three phases, and groundbreaking could be as early as 2027.

As part of this ongoing work, the first community meeting in this process took place in October. Representatives from development partner Brookfield Properties unveiled early renderings of what the space could become. They walked residents through potential design elements, listened closely to community feedback, and answered questions about what lies ahead in the planning process.

City Manager Cale Curtis, who also serves as the Executive Director of the Community Redevelopment Agency, says the project is envisioned as a "vibrant mixed-use" with restaurants, entertainment, and living spaces.



Curtis refers to it as an "eatertainment" spot, a term that combines "eating" and "entertainment" to describe a dining experience that goes beyond just food.

The combination of residential and retail uses will be thoughtfully arranged to bring new energy to this key area of the city and South Florida.



While many details are still being shaped, one thing is clear: resident feedback is front and center — and ongoing.

Renderings shown are conceptual and for illustrative purposes. Final design and features are subject to change as planning progresses.

Stay updated with developments and more at [margatefl.com/CityCenter!](http://margatefl.com/CityCenter)

Make a Splash at Calypso Cove, Reopening for Spring Break in 2026

What a year of fun we had at the freshly renovated Calypso Cove aquatic center and splash area! Looking for your fix of fresh and cooling fun? Don't worry, the water and the good times start flowing again soon!

Upcoming Park Hours and Days

Spring Break:

March 14 – March 22 · Daily

Spring Schedule:

March 28 – June 7 · Weekends Only



Learn more about our fan-favorite space, including how to secure your season pass, at margatefl.com/CalypsoCove!

Admission Fees

Ages 5 and over:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Margate residents: | \$6 |
| Non-residents: | \$12 |

Ages 2 to 4:

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Margate residents: | \$2 |
| Non-residents: | \$5 |

Under 2:

Free for both residents and non-residents

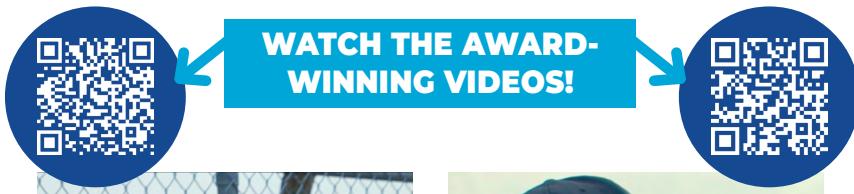
Calypso Cove

6200 Royal Palm Boulevard
954-974-4566 · ccove@margatefl.com

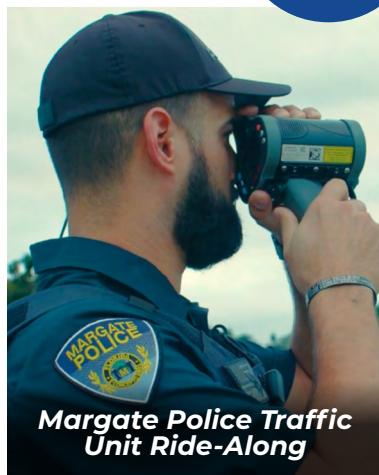
City Wins Two Silver Telly Awards for Public Safety Videos

The City of Margate was recently honored with two Silver Telly Awards for public-service video storytelling, recognizing work highlighting the role of our School Resource Officers and our Police Department's Traffic Enforcement team.

These two videos, winning in the categories of *Public Service & Activism* and *Health & Safety* respectively, showcase the dedication, professionalism, and community-centered work that define public safety in Margate.



School Resource Officer Appreciation Day



Margate Police Traffic Unit Ride-Along



Calling all Longtime Margate Neighbors!

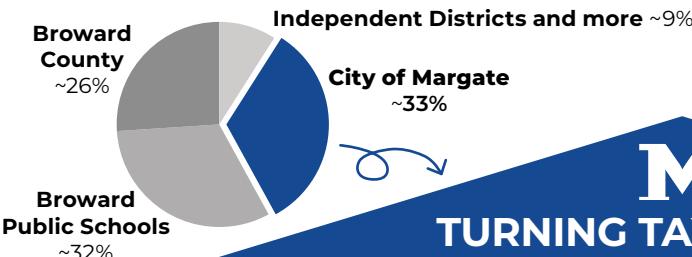
We're looking to feature residents who have called Margate home for 40 years or more. If you or someone you know would be interested, we'd love to hear from you!

Please reach out to us at pio@margatefl.com or call 954-935-5303 for more information.

WHERE DO YOUR PROPERTY TAXES GO?

The City of Margate makes every dollar count. Though just a third of your property taxes come to the City, that portion powers much of what keeps Margate running: safe streets, picturesque parks, family-favorite community events, and all other essential public services.

Take a look at the illustration below to see how some of your tax dollars are put to work across our community.



More about the City's budget:
margatefl.com/Finance

M TURNING TAX DOLLARS INTO BUILDING A BETTER MARGATE

PUBLIC SAFETY



POLICE OFFICERS AND VEHICLES
 FIREFIGHTERS, RESCUE UNITS AND EQUIPMENT

PARKS & RECREATION



CALYPSO COVE, CITY PARKS UPGRADES AND MAINTENANCE
 SPECIAL EVENTS AND CITY FESTIVALS

STREETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

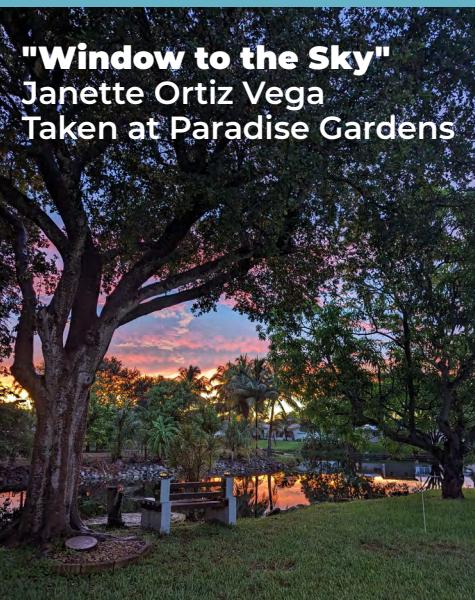


STREET REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE
 CITY HALL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

A BEAUTIFUL MARGATE

CODE ENFORCEMENT
 FREE PAINT PROGRAM
 LANDSCAPING AND MEDIAN BEAUTIFICATION
 AND MUCH MORE!

Congratulations to Our 2025 Photo Contest Winner



Earlier this year, we asked Margate residents to share their best shots of our city, and you delivered! We received more than 60 submissions showcasing Margate's parks, people, and everyday moments that make our community shine.

After several rounds of voting, 3-year resident Janette Ortiz Vega took home the title of Photo of the Year. The image, seen on this magazine's cover, features a beautiful sunset from the backyard of her Paradise Gardens 1 home.

"That's my backyard," she says of the glamour shot. "I love being in my backyard, I love sunsets."

Thank you to our participants! See all of the finalists and look for future challenges at margatefl.com/PhotoContest!

public safety

Eyes in the Sky: Margate Police Drones Boost Safety Responses

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's a... drone!

The Margate Police Department has four drones ready to assist in finding missing people and other search and rescue operations. The drones are also used for disaster response assessment. More could be added to the fleet in future years.



One day the drones might even be used as a first responder, comparable to what some other police agencies already do, including the Colorado town of Castle Rock and Miami Beach.

If there's a 911 hangup call in a generic location, the department now sends two police officers, says Sgt. Paul Frankenhauser. But a drone can respond instead, within 45 seconds, to check if help is really needed. It can respond faster

to a traffic accident to alert real uniformed police where resources are needed on the ground. And it can zoom in on a suspect car from more than 100 feet in the air, without endangering the lives of its human officers.

"There are huge officer and public safety implications," says Sgt. Frankenhauser. "It's a bird's eye view of real-time information."

In the case of a missing child, "there are waterways everywhere," says Sgt. Frankenhauser. "It's next to impossible to go down the canals from the street to look for people." With a drone, "in under a minute you can survey a whole canal line and search for people. It's almost like having a helicopter."



Fire Department Expands Fleet with New, Safer Trucks

A brand-new fire (below) engine for Fire Station 18 is the latest addition to the City of Margate Fire Department's fleet.

This truck's new design eliminates the need for a firefighter to be on top of the truck to assist with loading the hose. With the hose now at a lower level, it will help reduce any possible injuries from the hose being repacked over their heads.

In 2026, the department is scheduled to receive two new trucks: a 78-foot ladder Quint Fire Truck and a rescue truck for Fire Station 58.



WELCOME!



A new Rescue truck joined the City's fleet in September of 2025 for Fire Station 98. It was one of the first to incorporate a new air filtration device designed to eliminate pathogens from the air and surfaces, creating a disinfected and clean environment for patients.

Division Chief Danny Rodriguez says that the new trucks benefit residents because they reduce the mechanical issues of an aging fleet, so the trucks spend more time on the road doing their job.

"The trucks need to be able to run the calls," he says. "What matters most is reliability, making sure our community is served by modern, state-of-the-art apparatus designed to perform when it counts."

YOUNG AT HEART?



Paper copies of applications can be found at the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center (6009 NW 10th St.) or the Parks & Recreation Office (6199 NW 10th St.)

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE & ELECTRONICS DISPOSAL EVENT

Sunday, January 11 • 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Oriole Park • 7055 NW 1st Street

The City's Department of Environmental & Engineering Services is hosting a Household Hazardous Waste disposal event to help you safely get rid of unwanted chemicals, paints, electronics, and more. Open to Margate residents only, with proof of residency required.

This event will **not** include document shredding. Find a full list of accepted items: margatefl.com/HHW.



If you're at least 60 years of age and still young at heart, sign up for the City of Margate's Senior Games to show off your competitive spirit.

March 2 – 6

Northwest Focal Point Senior Center • Coral Cay Firefighters Park

SIGN UP AT MARGATEFL.COM/REGISTER

Individual Games

Horseshoes • Billiards • Shuffleboard • Rummikub
 Dominoes • Basketball (free-throw shooting)
 Golf Putting • Wii Bowling

Team Games

Petanque • Bocce • Pickleball • Pinochle
 Mixed Doubles Tennis

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Margate Sports Complex
 1695 Banks Road

Gather the family, bring your blankets, lawn chairs, and favorite snacks as you enjoy movie screenings under the covered field of the Margate Sports Complex!

The Wild Robot (2024)

Saturday, January 17 • 6:30 p.m.

The Garfield Movie (2024)

Saturday, February 21 • 6:30 p.m.

Admission and parking for this event are free.



You can learn about events taking place here in the City of Margate by visiting margatefl.com/Events, or by scanning the QR code!



SOUNDS AT SUNDOWN

Margate Sports Complex • 1695 Banks Road

Presented by the Margate Community Redevelopment Agency, sing and dance the night away from at this Saturday concert series with live music on the Margate stage! You will also find food trucks serving delicious snacks, meals, and desserts for purchase.

Bring your blankets and chairs! Admission and parking for this event are free.



Euphoria (Party Band)

Saturday, January 3 • 6 – 9 p.m.

Classic Rock Therapy (Classic Rock Band)

Saturday, February 7 • 6 – 9 p.m.

Apache Dragon (70s, 80s, 90s Band)

Saturday, March 7 • 6 – 9 p.m.

Learn more about this event:

margatefl.com/Sounds



SPRING CLEAN UP & GARAGE SALE



Saturday, March 7
7 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Oriole Park
7055 NW 1st Street

Information for Vendors

Margate Residents \$15 per space

Non-Residents \$30 per space

- No wholesalers or retailers
- No adult or obscene material
- No food or beverage
- Spaces are 15' x 20'

Register at margatefl.com/Registration. Vendors may also register in person at the Parks & Recreation Office Parks & Recreation Office, 6199 NW 10th St.

For more information, call **(954)972-6458** or email parksrec@margatefl.com.

PROGRAMS

ARCHERY

Andrews Field • 500 NW 65 Avenue
Behind Margate Middle School

Equipment is provided. Reservations are required.

Saturdays and Sundays: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Contact:

Karen Ludwig
954-866-4935 (TEXT ONLY)
goarchery.net@gmail.com
www.goarchery.net

MARTIAL ARTS (HAPKIDO)

Charles & Carol Katz Community Center
6111 NW 10th Street

Kids Class:

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Adult Class:

Tuesdays & Thursdays • 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Mixed Age Class:

Wednesdays • 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Fees:

\$120 per month, \$20 one-time registration fee. Family discounts available.

Contact:

Phil Barrett • 954-917-0488
hapkidobear@gmail.com

TRIBAL YOGA

Leonard Weisinger Community Center
6199 NW 10th Street

Yoga for all levels, from fitness-based approach to Vinyasa style flow. No experience necessary. Variation/modifications will be provided.

Mondays: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Fees:

Drop-in Classes • \$8
10 Classes • \$65

Contact:

Wanda Olcima • 954-282-9926
tribalyogallc@gmail.com

JOY DECO

Leonard Weisinger Community Center
6199 NW 10th Street

Mondays:

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.
Gymnastics Basics, Ages 4 – 7
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Gymnastics Basics, Ages 5 – 11
7:20 – 8:05 p.m.
Gymnastics Level 1, Ages 7 – 12

Wednesdays:

5:30 – 6:15 p.m.
Gymnastics Basics, Ages 4 – 7
6:20 – 7:05 p.m.
Gymnastics Level 1-2, Ages 5 – 11

Thursdays:

5:45 – 6:30 p.m.
Ballet & Jazz, Ages 4 – 7
6:30 – 7:15 p.m.
Cheerleading & Hip Hop, Ages 5 – 9

Fees:

\$64 per month, one class per week
\$15 one-time registration fee

Contact:

Joy Deco Enterprises • 954-971-9917
Register at joydecoenterprises.com

TENNIS & PICKLEBALL

Firefighters Park
2500 Rock Island Road

GSM Tennis of Margate offers Junior and Adult Tennis & Pickleball Classes. Private and group lessons available for all skill levels.

Monday through Friday:

Morning sessions: 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
Evening sessions: 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m.

Fee: \$25 registration fee. Contact GSM for full pricing details.

Contact:

Coach Csilla • 954-825-1118
csilla@gsm-tennis.com

ATHLETICS

The City of Margate offers youth athletic programs in the Fall and Spring, including baseball, softball, basketball & soccer! The spring season is already underway, and registration for the fall season will start in May!



For more information, contact Margate Athletics at 954-972-6459, or the Parks & Recreation Department at 954-972-6458 or by email at athletics@margatefl.com.

CLASSES



American
Red Cross

Lifeguard Certification Class

Registrants must be 15 years or older, and must attend all 3 days of class.

Fee: \$125 per person

Sessions:

January 2 – January 4
January 30 – February 1
February 27 – March 1

Water Safety Instructor Class

Registrants must be 15 years or older, and must attend all 4 days of class.

Fee: \$300 per person

Sessions:

January 17, 18, 24, and 25
February 7, 8, 14, and 15

CPR & First Aid Community Training

Registrants must be 12 years or older, and must attend the class in full.

Fee: \$50 per person

Next Date: January 11, 2026

Little Athletes Welcome Fall Season at Opening Ceremony

Our future sports stars ushered in the next youth sports season, and they have a lot to say about it. There are 56 teams creating a new season of fun!



You can catch the ball and it's not that hard.

Craig Walker, 7
Baseball, Tigers (AA)



My family has been in Margate sports since we were young. I love being with the team. We grow as one. We're a family.

Lisabella Van Hoof, 13
Baseball
Laser Sharks (Majors)



Levi Reyes, 7, Soccer, from the 9U Lightning says he is playing...

... because of my favorite soccer player, Messi. He's great.



I just want to have some fun.

Brixton Smith, 8
Soccer, Lightning (12U)



I want to get better at basketball. I love playing basketball so much.

Adrian Teves, 13, Basketball
G-League Moon Knights



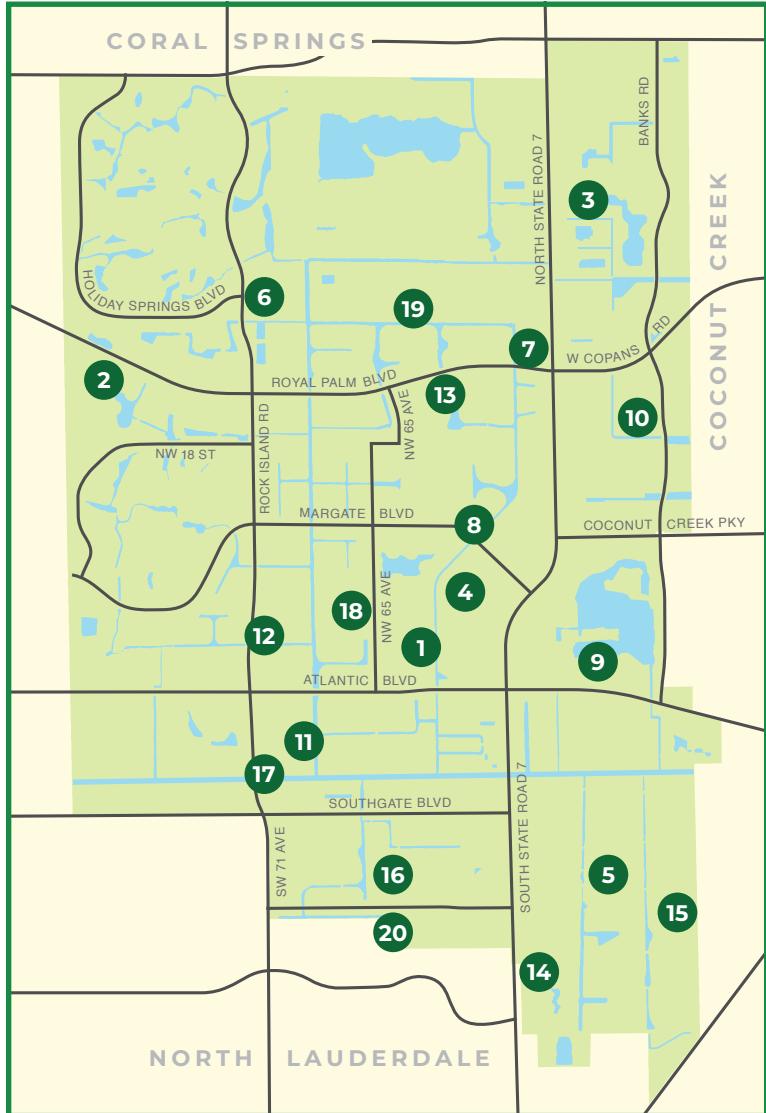
I'm excited because I'm starting a new season. This is a good sport.

Salvador Tenias, 8
Baseball, Lions (AA)



parks & recreation

PARKS & FACILITIES



- 1 Andrews Field at Margate Middle School
500 NW 65th Avenue**
Lighted baseball/softball field, cricket field, and soccer/football field.
- 2 Centennial Park • 7800 Royal Palm Boulevard**
Playground, full basketball court, handicap accessible picnic area, and open play area.
- 3 Coral Gate Park • 5650 NW 29th Street**
Lighted tennis courts, pavilions, half basketball courts, playground, walking trail, and restrooms.
- 4 David Park and George Mudd Playground
6199 NW 10th Street**
Community center, senior center, library, playground, and lighted bocce courts.
- 5 Ed Greenwalk Park • 5235 SW 5th Street**
Passive park and green space.

- 6 Firefighters Park • 2500 Rock Island Road**
Dog park (1.5 acre), lighted tennis courts, lighted full basketball courts, lighted pickleball courts, Safety Town, concession/restrooms, pavilions, playground, exercise trail, soccer rink, sand volleyball, and game room.
- 7 Kaye Stevens Park • 5825 Royal Palm Boulevard**
Picnic area, swinging benches, fishing area, and walking trail.
- 8 Legacy Park • 1400 West River Drive**
Boat launch, swinging benches, historical information, and gazebo.
- 9 Lemon Tree Lake Park • 426 Lakeside Drive**
Pavilion, swinging benches, and boat launch.
- 10 Margate Sports Complex • 1695 Banks Road**
Covered field, lighted baseball/softball fields, playground, splash pad, pavilions, batting cages, and walking trail with fitness stations.
- 11 Oriole Park • 7055 NW 1st Street**
Lighted baseball/softball field and lighted football/soccer field.
- 12 Rock Island Fitness Park • 7100 NW 6th Court**
Outdoor exercise equipment, ADA accessible equipment, and lighted pavilion cover.
- 13 Royal Palm Park/Calypso Cove
6200 Royal Palm Boulevard**
Park: Half basketball courts, playground, pavilion, and fishing dock.
Calypso Cove: Plunge pool, zero-entry pool water playground, lap pool, concessions, complimentary shade umbrellas/lounge chairs, community room for party rentals, group & individual swim lessons.
- 14 Serino Park • 5600 SW 8th Court**
Playground, splash pad, walking trail, outdoor exercise equipment, pavilion, and open play area.
- 15 Southeast Park • 655 SW 50th Avenue**
Synthetic turf, pavilion, concession/restrooms, and playground.
- 16 Southgate Park • 425 SW 64th Avenue**
Full basketball court, exercise trail, playground, and open play area.
- 17 Veterans Memorial Park • 7044 NW 1st Street**
Boat launch, pavilion, and fishing dock.
- 18 Vinson Park • 955 NW 66th Avenue**
Lighted baseball/softball fields, lighted batting cages, concession/restrooms, and playground.
- 19 Winfield Park • 6400 Winfield Boulevard**
Boat launch, playground, swinging benches, half basketball court, and fishing area.
- 20 Herman and Dorothy Shooster Nature Preserve
740 SW 64th Terrace**
(Managed by Broward County Parks)

A Bridge Connecting Margate to Neighboring Cities Named for Fallen Soldier

The legacy of SPC Daniel Agami endures as the “bridge” for the love of country.



Daniel, a local who attended the Hebrew Academy Community School in Margate during grades 1-5, now has a state bridge on State Road 7 over Sample Road named in his memory.

Florida Rep. Christine Hunschofsky filed the bill amendment for the renaming, and the governor signed the bill on June 13, 2025. It became law in July.

Daniel joined the military in 2005. The tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001, had fueled his drive to serve, his parents said. “America fights for freedom and survival for the souls of the entire world,” he once said.



Daniel with his parents and siblings, Fort Benning 2005.

an immigrant from Israel, also served in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).



Daniel, a strapping 6'1" man of “just muscle,” was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, in Schweinfurt, Germany. Many of his comrades had never met anyone Jewish before him and affectionately referred to him as “G.I. Jew” and “Hebrew Hammer.”

In 2006, he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with valor after he “acted courageously while being engaged by enemy fire” in northeast Baghdad, Iraq. He returned fire with his machine gun, and was able to kill

one insurgent using his pistol. He was praised in a memo for his “unfaltering courage in the face of danger and ability to provide overwhelming firepower and accuracy with his sidearm.”

Daniel was killed with four other soldiers in a Humvee while patrolling Adhamiyah, Iraq on June 21, 2007, when he was 25. The U.S. Department of Defense announced at the time that he died of wounds suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle.



At his funeral service at the Star of David Memorial Gardens in North Lauderdale, an Army officer gave his mother a folded flag and numerous awards, including the Purple Heart for being wounded in action, the Bronze Star for his dedication, and a gold star lapel pin.

His name also graces the United States Postal Service, located at 4233 W. Hillsboro Blvd. in Coconut Creek, as the “Army SPC Daniel Agami Post Office Building.” The post office renaming was signed into law in October 2008 by President George W. Bush.

“We are humbled and overjoyed by the dedication of this bridge, which stands as an everlasting legacy to our son — a local hero who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms,” says Daniel’s mother, Beth Agami. “Our family chose this particular bridge because it connects three cities, including Margate, that Daniel grew up in and dearly loved. It is a symbol of his journey, his roots, and the community he so proudly served.”

Not only will Daniel’s name and memory live on with the bridge renaming, but with his family, too. Daniel’s younger brother, Ilan, was just 10 days married and on his honeymoon on a cruise ship, when he got the horrific news that day in 2007. He has since had a son of his own, who is now a teenager.

That boy’s name?

Daniel.



northwest focal po

Denise Steele Creates Home Away from Home for Seniors

On paper, Denise Steele's title at Margate's Northwest Focal Point Senior Center is Activities Coordinator/Special Events Coordinator.

But she's way more than that. She's the chief friend, the top organizer, the eagle eye, the administrator's right hand. She's also known to be the bartender, whipping up mocktails for special events.

"I love it," she whispers. "It's a good place."

For seniors ages 60 and older, the center is a place to be social, keep moving, and stay busy. Denise arranges activities such as arts and crafts, line dance lessons, card games, board games, dominoes, and more. She runs a variety of events to keep it fresh, including an annual International Folk Festival Day, mindful of being inclusive of an array of cultures to make everyone welcome.

"We celebrate everything," she says. "I love being creative. We celebrate every holiday that comes along... we always have parties."

Denise has been with the senior center since June 1984. She was in nursing school at the time, and a professor was looking for a top student for part-time work at the senior center's request. "Would you be interested?" she was asked.

Christmas was coming. "I can get those new drapes, I can get that new recliner," she thought.

So she agreed. "I can do it part-time, I said 'I'll do it for six months,'" she says. The job, she says, "chose me. I'm thankful for that."

"Six months turned into 41 years."

"It's my divine calling," she explains. "It's my assignment."

"I see the seniors come in, and it's a safe place for them," she says. "The TV does not answer you back. You can't get a warm hug" while home alone.

"You meet new friends," she says. "The staff will take you around to meet other people."

There is entertainment – who can forget the fire-throwing dancers during Hawaiian Day or the annual talent show competition? National Pizza Day doesn't go unnoticed. And National Chocolate Chip Day tends to be holy.

But it's not just about fun. Denise knows how important the center is to the people who need her the most.

"They know we care. They know they can trust us."

**Listen to
Denise's story!**



Denise, fifth from right, poses in a group photo at a 2004 Rally for Aging event in Tallahassee, Fla.

Point senior center

SENIOR SERVICES

SHINE

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) counselors help seniors with Medicare and health insurance questions.

E HEAP

(Emergency Home Energy Assistance) is a program that provides assistance for home-energy emergencies to qualified, low-income households with at least one person 60 years of age or older.

Broward County Property Appraiser

On the first Monday of the month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., Margate residents can apply for Homestead Exemption and other tax-saving property exemptions at the Senior Center. Make an appointment for the Exemption Express service at web.bcpa.net or by calling 954-357-5579.

Counseling

Available for individuals or support groups. Caregiver Support Group is also available Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

Adult Day Care

Provides care and companionship for older adults who need assistance or supervision during the day. The program offers relief to family members and caregivers, allowing them to go to work, handle personal business, or relax while knowing their relative is well cared for and safe. Appointment required for registration. Call 954-973-0300 for an appointment or for more information.

JOIN NOW!

Northwest Focal Point Senior Center

6009 NW 10th Street, Margate, FL 33063
954-973-0300

margatefl.com/SeniorCenter

ACTIVITIES FOR SENIORS

Are you a senior looking to keep active? Take a look at some of the activities at the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center!

DAILY ACTIVITIES -----

Zumba Gold

Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m.

Stretch & Balance Exercise Class

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

Tai Chi Class

Tuesdays at 12 p.m.

Bingo

Wednesdays and Fridays at 11:30 a.m.

Line Dance Class

Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Chair Yoga

1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 1 p.m.

Asian Dance

Thursdays at 1 p.m.

Live Music

Thursdays and Fridays at 1:30 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS -----

There is no shortage of fun to be found at the Northwest Focal Point Senior Center!

In addition to daily activities and classes that the Center offers, there is also an abundance of special events that take place throughout the year for seniors to enjoy.

From Valentine's Day celebrations, to friendly Wii bowling competitions and more, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Most activities require registration, so don't miss out!

To learn more about the activities offered at the Senior Center, please call **954-973-0300**.

HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

CARE AND COMFORT DRIVES ON: **MEET MARIO**

Weekday service begins at 9:45 a.m. and ends at noon. Eligible doctor's office destinations include Margate, North Lauderdale, Coconut Creek, Coral Springs, Parkland, and north Tamarac.

Q: How long have you worked for Northwest Focal Point Senior Center?

January 2026 will mark one year on the job for me here with the Senior Center.

Q: What is your main goal when driving seniors in and around Margate?

My main thing is safety. I make sure everyone has their seatbelt on, and I always drive slowly and carefully.

Q: What inspired you to start working with seniors?

When you start talking to them, they entertain you! I like asking questions about their pasts. There are always lessons to be learned.

Q: Are the seniors happy with the transportation service?

Yes! They make me sandwiches, they give me hugs. They say they appreciate it.

Q: Why is the work that you do important?

The seniors tell me they feel safe with me. They don't get sent to the wrong address or get stranded. I hope the service never ends. They really do need it.

Pro tip: You must call at least 48 hours in advance, but it's still first-come, first-serve.

Reserve early! To schedule an appointment with a Doctor Taxi, call **954-973-0300**.

Mario Velez is one of the friendly faces behind the wheel of the City's #28 Northwest Focal Point Senior Center bus. Known affectionately as the *Doctor Taxi*, this free service helps Margate residents who are also Senior Center members get convenient transportation to their medical appointments in a safe and timely manner.



CLEAN WORK, CLEAN CURBS: CONTRACTOR-GENERATED WASTE

When you hire someone to work on your home — such as a landscaper, roofer, or general contractor — they're responsible for taking the waste they generate with them. Don't let them leave it behind! Items like roofing debris and construction scraps don't belong on your curb.

FOLLOW THE CODE

Contractor-generated waste is not part of residential bulk or yard waste collection. Only household-generated items are eligible for pickup.

Contractors are responsible for removing the waste generated from their work! Following these rules helps prevent a visual mess in our community and avoids hazardous obstacles in the public rights-of-way.



KEEP OUR CANALS CLEAN

Keep your canal frontage clean, trim, and free of debris... it's the law and it keeps our beautiful waterways healthy.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE STANDARDS

Take a look at what the city's code says about canal right-of-way/easement maintenance for homeowners:

- Do not dump yard waste or debris into canals.
- Keep grass and/or weeds under 6 inches.
- Trim overhanging branches to be at least 12 feet clear above water.
- Maintain your seawall to keep canals and other bodies of water free of nuisance aquatic plants.

Learn more at
margatefl.com/Canals!

Scan the QR Code on this page to see how the city cleans sections of canals that it maintains!





2025 Veterans Day Ceremony
See upcoming activities at [margatefl.com/Events!](http://margatefl.com/Events)

STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Margate has several ways you can reach us and stay connected.

Visit Our Website:
margatefl.com

Watch Us on Margate TV:
Comcast Channel 78

Subscribe to Our YouTube:
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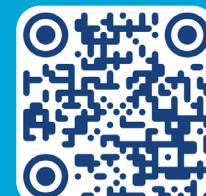
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Find Us on Nextdoor:
[Nextdoor.com](https://www.nextdoor.com)

Sign up for Our Margate E-News!

Get the latest news, event information, city updates, and more to your inbox. More than 7,000 readers are staying connected and informed.

► margatefl.com/Newsletter



**Scan the QR code
and subscribe now!**



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